

as the National Association of State Workforce Agencies, the National Governor's Association, and other federal policy organizations, Alaska has been effective at influencing development and deployment of laws and policies before they become significant impediments. Alaska has also dedicated staff to monitor in-state laws and policies and works to mitigate the negative impact. Finally, Alaska's congressional delegation is keenly aware of the workforce development system and has worked with federal agencies to overcome unnecessary bureaucracy.

V.J *Waivers and Workflex*

Describe how the state will take advantage of the flexibility provisions in WIA for waivers and the option to obtain approval as a workflex state. § 189(i) and §192.

Alaska intends to continue operating with the five waivers approved previously. The waivers provide the state the ability to train youth through individual training accounts, improve employment retention in communities with a seasonal industry, allow greater flexibility to move funds between funding streams, and allow the governor and the workforce development system in the state to provide better support and services through a single regional planning area. The state does not intend to introduce new waivers at the time of the submission of this plan.

VIII. Administration and Oversight

VIII.A.1 Local Area Designations

Identify the state's designated local workforce investment areas and the date of the most recent area designation, including whether the state is currently re-designating local areas pursuant to the end of the subsequent designation period for areas designated in the previous state plan. (§§112(b)(5).)

Alaska has two local areas, the Anchorage/Matanuska-Susitna local area and the Balance of State, designated in 2000. In 2003, the AWIB and governor evaluated the local areas and administration of the workforce investment system and concluded that it would be more effective if the state consolidated. Governor Murkowski issued Administrative Order 210 directing the consolidation of the two local areas. In August of 2003, the Employment and Training Administration approved a waiver granting the state the authority to function as a single regional planning area with the Alaska Workforce Investment Board functioning as the local board for both areas. At this time the state does not plan to re-designate existing areas or designate any new areas. The governor is expecting approval of the waiver authorizing the state to continue as a single regional planning area.

VIII.A.2 Description of Process

Include a description of the process used to designate such areas. Describe how the state considered the extent to which such local areas are consistent with labor market areas: geographic areas served by local and intermediate education agencies, post-secondary education institutions and area vocational schools; and all other criteria identified in section 116(a)(1) in establishing area boundaries, to assure coordinated planning. Describe the state board's role, including all recommendations made on local designation requests pursuant to section 116(a)(4). (§§112(b)(5) and 116(a)(1).)

Under Section 116(a)(2) of the Workforce Investment Act, Alaska's two local areas received automatic designation as sub-state areas under the Job Training Partnership Act. In August of 2003, the board submitted a waiver request to consolidate oversight and planning for the two local areas. The board concluded that a symbiotic relationship existed between Alaska's two local areas and it was not effective or efficient to administer them differently and still meet Alaska's workforce investment system goals.

VIII.A.3 Appeals Process

Describe the appeals process used by the state to hear appeals of local area designations referred to in §112 (b)(5) and 116(a)(5).

Should a local area wish to appeal a decision regarding local area status, representatives of the local area may submit an appeal to the Alaska Workforce

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majority of programs under WIA and is responsible for consistency and efficiency in its role as the One-Stop Operator in the state.

VIII.K.2 Procedures

Procedures to resolve impasse situations at the local level in developing memoranda of understanding (MOUs) to ensure full participation of all required partners in the One-Stop delivery system.

As a single regional planning area, Alaska does not have multiple MOUs requiring impasse resolution. At this time all required partners are signatory to the MOU and comply with its requirements.

VIII.K.3 Criteria

Criteria by which the state will determine if local boards can run programs in-house.

Currently, the state does not have local boards; however when it did in the past, local boards were not approved to operate in-house programs.

VIII.K.4 Performance

Performance information that on-the-job training and customized training providers must provide.

No policy exists for the collection of this data. However performance information is collected consistent with the type of funding used for these programs, i.e. Dislocated Worker, Adult, etc.

VIII.K.5 Reallocation

Reallocation policies.

No policies on reallocation exist. The only information that influences reallocation is related to the allocation of Rapid Response funds from the dislocated worker program.

VIII.K.6 Approving Local Requests

State policies for approving local requests for authority to transfer funds (not to exceed 20%) between the Adult and Dislocated Worker funding streams at the local level.

As a single regional planning area, the state administrator makes the determination to transfer funds. The state has a waiver allowing the state to transfer more than thirty-percent of adult or dislocated worker funds. Transfer of funds is dependent upon fund availability, performance and economic conditions.